

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, June 5, 1888, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell Hotel Grande Monarque Chartres, June 5th., 1888. My dear Alec:

I am so glad to think that you are really on the way to us, and that soon no dreadful ocean will divide us. I did not at all like to think of your being so far away and utterly ungetable. Now that you will be within a no greater distance than you were at Martha's Vineyard while I was at Washington I feel much more comfortable. I did hope for a little letter but perhaps that was expecting too much. I wonder how you have managed without me. It was satisfactory to know that we were "missed" I do hope that the long quiet days on shipboard will have worked wonders for you. I know you must have worn yourself nearly to death before. Mayn't I have a few lines from you? I don't want one of Mr. Hitz's epistles telling how many boiled eggs etc. you eat as if you were a dyspeptic old grandfather. He is very good and kind but — well — I want to know how your paper is getting on if any part of it is written.

We have been in Paris until yesterday mostly shopping. I haven't cleaned out my litter yet — but perhaps much wont be left when I get through — I have bought a new dinner set which I feel sure you will approve of, it is so severely simple — just a narrow gold rim and your monogram — Also a set for C.B. and ordered one evening dress for next winter — pale blue — I was going to be fitted for another but an attack like what I had in Florence seven years ago prevented. I was horribly miserable all one night and evening when I was at a dinner party and could not leave the table until it was utterly impossible to remain longer. That was dreadful but I am all right now and having a good time here — dear Oh Alec, I wish you could see how lovely provincial France is — You have no idea of it's beauty — Beauty too owing little 2 to untamed nature, for the land is generally

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flat here and the charm lies in the beautiful trees carefully planted, varied and arranged with exquisite thought for beauty consciously or not — And the houses so simple and unadorned owing their beauty principally to the harmony of proportion.

Goodnight this is only to welcome you to Europe and assure you of the love and remembrance of your wife and children,

Yours lovingly,